# Site Frankley studies the Waiwhakaiho River

The middle syndicate at Frankley School has been busy learning all about the Waiwhakaiho River. The wide-ranging study included two field trips studying the river's water quality, firstly near the National Park and secondly at the Merrilands Domain in New Plymouth. Student, Thomas Fale is pictured closely examining one of the invertebrates he found at the first site.

# Hawera Intermediate

Hawera Intermediate was presented with a Council Environmental award at a recent school assembly. Pictured are students from the school's 'enviro group' getting ready for one of its many planting sessions at Nowells Lakes, near Hawera. The school's propagation progamme produces thousands of seedlings each year, for later planting at this site and in conjunction with this has developed herb patches, mini worm farms and its own vegetable gardens.

#### Teachers

Your students could win \$1000 for your school with the Weedbusters 2-minute Film Challenge for Year 1-8 students. Get creative, learn heaps, and help save the environment! More information at www.weedbusters.org.nz



# Welbourn Environmental Award

**Environmental** 

Welbourn School was presented with a Council Environmental Award at a recent school assembly. The school has been a partner in a Forest and Bird project on the Te Henui Walkway, has a well established waste minimisation system in operation, promotes walking school buses and grows its own vegetables for sale. Pictured with Councillor Tom Cloke (second from left at the rear) are Mrs Carolyn Brough (Forest and Bird), teacher Kelly Collins, Council Education Officer Kevin Archer and senior pupils Kaylee and Robson.

# tapiko visits the Counci



We recently hosted an enthusiastic group of students, parents and teachers from Ratapiko School. The biolaboratory visit followed field trips to Lake Ratapiko and to a stream adjacent to the school.

# **Bits 'n' Pieces**

#### Lifeline for longfins

Longfin eel (Tuna) numbers have been declining following years of excessive commercial exploitation and loss of habitat. A petition has been organized to call on the Ministry of Fisheries for a moratorium on commercial fishing of this endangered native species. Further information at www.longfineel.co.nz

## Professional development

Biodiversity - Thursday 4 August This session is sure to have value for your school's environmental education programme. You will learn about many biodiversity programmes happening in our region and get a chance to have some practical action as well. See the flyer in this newsletter for details.

Mini unit - Bus transport in our region We are currently writing a mini-unit focused on bus transport in Taranaki. Many of the activities will be website based. The unit should be available on our website within the next few weeks.

#### Thank you letters

We really enjoy and value feedback from students; many thanks to both the writers and to their teachers. From time to time, I intend to publish sentences from some of the letters which I have especially appreciated for one reason or another. Here is the first set.

I learnt that we have 14 national parks in NZ, with Fiordland the largest at 1,257,000 ha, Tongariro is 75,000ha but good old Egmont is only 33,000ha. Stratford High School - Year 9.

You showed us the dangers of the mountain erupting and clearly explained that having a plan is a very important key to surviving. Stratford High School - Year 9.

I found heaps and heaps of snails, so many that when we went to empty the bugbox (that's where you put the aquatic invertebrates) they wouldn't come out. It was an awesome day! Ratapiko School - Year 4.

There is a lot about wetlands that I have learnt with you, I now know how special wetlands are and how much we need to care for them. Mangorei School - Junior student

#### Answers from page 3 Bird Quiz

1.C 2.C 3.B 4.B 5.D 6.A 7.B 8.A 9.A 10.D Bird sayings match-up 1.E 2.H 3.J 4.D 5.G 6.I 7.A 8.B 9.F 10.C Native and Introduced Birds The native birds are Kiwi, Keruru, Tui, Fantail and Morepork whilst the introduced birds are Sparrow. Mynah, Starling, Thrush and Canadian goose.

For support with environmental education contact: Kevin Archer, Education Officer Taranaki Regional Council Private Bag 713, Stratford

Ph: 06 765 7127 Fax: 06 765 5097 E-mail: education@trc.govt.nz www.trc.govt.nz



chools in the environment newsletter

## Welcome

I am sure every one of us accepts that we live in a beautiful but volatile country. However, with the earthquakes in Christchurch, the tornadoes in Auckland, New Plymouth, Waikanae and Northland, landslides in the Bay of Plenty, as well as flooding in many places, it is very obvious that some natural events can be difficult to deal with. While we may never be able to stop them all from happening, we have a better chance of limiting the damage, preventing injury and indeed saving lives if we prepare ourselves for them. I know many schools are looking closely at how they will cope should something unexpected happen in school time which is a very sensible course of action.

You may be aware of the new safety arrangements we have in place when school groups visit us or whenever groups are involved in field trips with my support. Rather than sending letters to every school en masse, we have decided to send a letter to individual schools prior to any planned activity to advise them of our requirements. This system is working well; thank you for your co-operation.

The Council has just completed its annual recognition of the special environmental efforts made by individuals, professional or community groups, companies, local authorities and schools. Nine awards were made this year with three of them going to schools. Congratulations to the students, the staff and the school communities of Oakura, Welbourn and Hawera Intermediate for your fantastic work over many years. In most cases, nomination for a school award is made by me but it certainly doesn't have to be that way. We would welcome nominations from schools themselves or at least some contact bringing to our attention the possibility of a future nomination. You have plenty of time to think about this as nominations for next year's awards close on 31 March 2012.

While winter tends to be the time for classroom visits rather than teachers testing the weather with outdoor field trips, it has been great to be involved with many classes studying rivers, lakes, wetlands and rocky shore areas in recent months. As all teachers know, the secret behind a successful field trip often lies in the length of the study with a short, sharp and focused session being more productive than one which is dragged out.

Make the most of your term. **Kevin Archer** 



This issue looks closely at what a visit to the Rotokare Scenic Reserve offers teachers and their classes. While there are similar exciting resources in other parts of New Zealand, it is a very special place and being a pest-free sanctuary, is at the top end of the nature conservation spectrum. Educator Melissa Jacobson is pictured with one of the kiwi chicks currently staying at the reserve.

# **Environmental Award - Oakura School**

Oakura School was recently presented with a Taranaki Regional Council Environmental award. Councillor Craig Williamson presented the award to teacher Ray Priest and five of the school's environmental leaders. The school has been very involved with environmental programmes including growing plants in its nursery, its waste minimization programme, riparian planting, making boxes for blue penguins and studying local rivers and the coast. In addition the school has conducted a beach clean-up each year, for thirty-nine years.





# ROTOKARE SCENIC RESERVE TRUST

#### **Facts and figures**

#### Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve

- Is situated 12 km east of Eltham.
- Consists of a 230ha forested hill-country catchment, with extensive wetlands and a 17.8ha natural lake.
- Is home to many native plant, tree, insect, bird and fish species.
- The Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust was formed in 2004 by a group of local people who were concerned that the Rotokare habitat was in decline
- The construction of the pest-proof fence started in November 2006. The fence encircles the reserve and was built at a cost of almost two million dollars.

#### Rotokare newsletter

A very informative newsletter is issued to all schools in the first week of each term. If teachers would like their own personal copy they should contact Melissa.

#### Kiwi creche

Kiwi chicks stay at Rotokare until they reach 1.2kg, a size that allows them to fight off their number one predator - the stoat. Currently there are six kiwi chicks living at Rotokare and all are doing well.



Stewardship Superheroes

A Sensor

(ECE: L 1)

**OPTION 2** 

sciences curriculum.

#### **Education programmes**

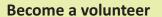
There are two options available; whatever programme you pick you can be assured that it will be unique to Taranaki and offer students an opportunity to experience what pre-human New Zealand may have been like.

## **OPTION 1**

Rotokare Sanctuary Nature Trail Programme (Early Childhood - Year 10)

- This programme consists of nine unit options for classes. Suitable spots on the walkway are used for hands-on interactive learning.
- The broad units for primary and intermediate classes offer cross-curricular learning with activities based on the Living World (Science) strand, the Place and Environment (Social Science) strand and the Technology and Society (Technology) strand. Refer to the
- Each unit is made up of a series of microactivities, simulation games and assessment activities.





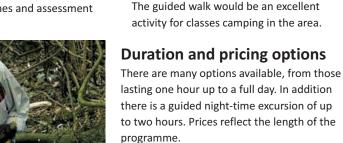
The Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust is always on the lookout for volunteers. Every Sunday is a working bee for those who can make it. If you or a student in your class is keen, please give Melissa a call, she would be delighted to hear from you. Already this year she has enlisted new volunteers from classes (both students and teachers) that have visited the sanctuary for the first time.

Students from Sacred Heart Girls College pot native eedlings on a visit to the Rotokare Education Centre

SITE JULY 2011 ISSUE NO.58

#### (Years 11 - 13) This programme is designed to introduce more complex ecological themes and makes use of Rotokare's distinctive features for the

diagram of units available.



Contact details: Melissa Jacobson Email: educator@rotokare.org.nz Phone: (06) 764 8500 Address: P.O. Box 33, Eltham Website: www.rotokare.org.nz





#### Photo match up

Pictured are five native birds and five birds which have been introduced to New Zealand from other parts of the world. Can you name the five native birds as well as the five which have been introduced.















#### **Class debate**

**Topic - Spending all that money on** saving the life of 'Happy Feet' was money well spent.



#### Wetland quiz

1. This is New Zealand's famous bird icon. A. penguin B. pigeon C. kiwi D. falcon

#### 2. Which of these introduced birds is not generally regarded as a problem?

- A. magpie B. mynah
- C. blackbird
- 3. This is New Zealand's smallest native bird. A. bellbird
- B. rifleman
- C. yellow eyed penguin D. black robin
- 4. This is the only mainland bird which builds a roofed nest? A. kiwi B. warbler C. tomtit D. taiko

#### 5. The tui is capable of making the following sounds,

- A. a cough B. a laugh
- C. a sneeze D. all of them

#### 6. Birds migrate mainly.

- A, to find food
- B. to escape from hot weather C. to get away from other birds
- D. to see how far they can fly

## **1.** A bird in the hand

- 2. The bird has flown
- 3. Birds of a feather
- 4. Strictly for the birds 5. Kills two birds with o
- **6.** A little bird
- 7. To get a duck in crick
- 8. A birdie
  - 9. A bird brain
  - **10.** A bird's eye view

Did the owl worry when Answer – No, it didn't giv

What happens when du fly upside down? Answer - They quack-up,

How does a bird with a wing manage to land saf Answer - It uses a sparro

What Answe Which birds steal soap from a bath? Answer - Robber ducks.



Nature's

Recycling

Rotokare

Sanctuary

What is

that

Forest/Wetland Health Programme

practical components of the biological

achievement standards in NCEA levels 1-3.

The programme caters specifically for

Nature Trail

D. Canadian goose

#### 7. Which of these ducks is

- not a native?
- A. grey duck B. mallard
- C. blue duck
- D. paradise shelduck

#### 8. This bird is extinct?

- A. moa
- B. sparrow
- C. kaka
- D. hummingbirg

#### 9. This bird is

- something of
- a thief?
- A. kea
- B. starling C. owl
- D. tui

### 10. This bird is not a

- type of parrot?
- A. kakapo B. kaka
- C. Parakeet
- D. Black Stilt

#### **Match up** Match the 'bird sayings' with their meanings.

| · ·       | U         | U U                           |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
|           | Α.        | Make no runs at all           |
|           | В.        | A one-under-par golf score    |
|           | C.        | Seen from above               |
|           | D.        | Something uninteresting       |
| one stone | E.        | Something certain             |
|           | F.        | A stupid person               |
| ket       | G.        | Achieve two aims at once      |
|           | Н.        | Someone or something has gone |
|           | <u></u> . | An unnamed informant          |
|           | J.        | People of similar character   |
|           |           |                               |

Not very funny jokes ... Not very funny 'bird' jokes. In fact some of them aren't funny at all.

What I-

| n it lost its v  | poice? Answer Di  |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| ive a hoot.      | Answer - Pigeon English.  |   |
|                  | chickens playing hide and seek?   |   |
| ucks             | Answer - Fowl play.   |   |
|                  | did the parrot wear a raincoat?   |   |
| Why              | did the parrot week<br>ver - Because she wanted to<br>rame - Polly Unsaturated.                                   |   |
| have             | ver - Because she wanted over - Because she wanted over - Because she wanted over a new name - Polly Unsaturated. |   |
| broken<br>afely? | Where do birds invest   |   |
| w-chute.         | their money?  |   |
| w-chute.         | Answer - In the stork market.   |   |
| is a duck's      | favourite TV show?  |   |
| er - The feat    | her forecast.   |   |
| 0                |   |   |
| How d            | o you get a parrot to talk properly?  | 1 |

Answer - You send it to a polytechnic